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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,444	03/04/2004	BAR-CHUNG HWANG	12772-US-PA	2443
31561	7590	03/16/2006	EXAMINER	
JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE 7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100 ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2 TAIPEI, 100 TAIWAN			CAMPOS, YAIMA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2185	

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/708,444	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HWANG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Yaima Campos	<b>Art Unit</b> 2185	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The instant application having Application No. 10/708,444 has a total of 18 claims pending in the application; there is 1 independent claim and 17 dependent claims, all of which are ready for examination by the examiner.

### **I. INFORMATION CONCERNING OATH/DECLARATION**

#### **Oath/Declaration**

2. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in 37 C.F.R. 1.63.

### **II. STATUS OF CLAIM FOR PRIORITY IN THE APPLICATION**

As required by M.P.E.P. 201.14(c), acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for priority based on applications filed on 12/9/03 (Taiwan 92221612). It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and M.P.E.P. 201.14(b).

### **III. INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAWINGS**

#### **Drawings**

3. The applicant's drawings submitted are acceptable for examination purposes.

#### IV. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

##### *Claim Objections*

4. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities:
5. As per **claim 14**, the words “the said interface” in line 1 are believed to be a typographical error and should be corrected to read – **said interface --**.
6. Appropriate correction is required.

#### V. REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

##### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. **Claims 1 -18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bungo (US 2005/0108483).
9. As per **claim 1**, Bungo discloses “A device capable of indicating access modes for an accessible memory card, comprising: an indicator;” as [“**the present invention provides a memory module indicator device having an indicator circuit using an indicator element to indicate situation of access to readable and writable semiconductor memory mounted on a standardized memory module connected to a computer**” (Column 1, paragraph 0010, lines 1-6) and explains that “the memory module 80 is and expansion memory card for desktop

**personal computers” (Column 3, paragraph 0062, lines 9-10)] “and an interface electrically connected to a card controller of the accessible memory card and to the indicator, wherein the indicator is driven by the interface to show users that the accessible memory card is performing an accessing operation when the card controller issues commands to operate the accessible memory card” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses that “the access indicator module 10 comprises an adapter, a signal cable, and an indicator unit” (Column 3, paragraph 0063, lines 1-2) and explains that the configuration of an access indicator module wherein “the adapter 20” receives signals “from the PC via connection terminal 22 and transfers these signals to the corresponding buffer gates of the driver IC. The adapter 20 then outputs the buffered signals to the indicator unit section 40” (Column 4, paragraph 0078) as having an interface receiving command signals from a host and indicating memory access type through an indicator].**

10. As per **claim 2**, Bungo discloses “The device of claim 1,” [See rejection to claim 1 above] “wherein the accessible memory card is selected from a group consisting of a compact flash (CF) card, a memory stick (MS) card, a multimedia card (MMC) and a secure digital card” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses; “the memory module 80 is an expansion memory card for desktop personal computers” (Column 3, paragraph 0062, lines 9-10) and also discloses the existence of a memory card having LEDs for access type indication and an IC card having LEDs that operate in response to an access request from a host apparatus (Background of the invention, Column 1, paragraphs 0005 and 0006)].

11. As per **claim 3**, Bungo discloses “The device of claim 1,” [See rejection to claim 1 above] “wherein the command issued from the card controller is selected from a group

consisting of a "write" command, a "read" command and an "erase" command” **[With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses; “the available access types include not only writing or reading from the semiconductor memory, but also deleting data from the semiconductor memory, verifying data, and the like” (Column 1, paragraph 0014)].**

12. As per claim 4, Bungo discloses “The device of claim 3,” [See rejection to claim 3 above] “wherein the accessible memory card performs operation selected from a group consisting of a writing operation, a reading operation and an erasing operation, and the accessible memory card carries out a writing operation when the card controller issues a "write" command, and the accessible memory card carries out a reading operation when the card controller issues a "read" command, and the accessible memory card carries out an erasing operation when the card controller issues an "erase" command” **[With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses that “the present invention makes it possible to show which type of access is made to the semiconductor memory mounted on the memory module” (Column 1, paragraph 0012) and explains that “the available access types include not writing or reading from the semiconductor memory, but also deleting data from the semiconductor memory, verifying data and the like” (Column 1, paragraph 0014)].**

13. As per claims 5-6 and 13, Bungo discloses “The device of claims 4 and 11,” [See rejection to claim 4 above and rejection to claim 11 below] “wherein when the card controller issues a "write" command, the indicator indicates that the accessible memory card is performing a writing operation” wherein “the indicator further comprises at least a first light-emitting diode for indicating that the accessible memory card is performing a writing operation” **[With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses that “the indicator unit 40a is mounted**



with a plurality of LEDs (indicator elements) 51 and 52 to indicate states of access to the semiconductor memory 83 of the memory module” (Column 3, paragraph 0066, lines 2-5) and explains that “eight write operation indicator LEDs 52 are used to indicate the frequency of writing to the semiconductor memory 83” (Column 3, lines 1-12); further explaining that “the LED decoder 73 lights eight write operation indicator LEDs 52” (Figure 14 and Column 6, paragraph 0111) to indicate that the memory is being written to wherein “the sequencer generates a READL\_WRITH signal and outputs it to a command decoder 62 and LED decoders 72 and 73” and explains that when the signal is set to high, the system is performing a writing access (Column 4, paragraph 0081)].

14. As per claims 7-8 and 11, Bungo discloses “The device of claim 4,” [See rejection to **claim 4 above**] “wherein when the card controller issues a "read" command, the indicator indicates that the accessible memory card is performing a reading operation” wherein “the indicator further comprises at least a second light-emitting diode for indicating that the accessible memory card is performing a reading operation” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses that “the indicator unit 40a is mounted with a plurality of LEDs (indicator elements) 51 and 52 to indicate states of access to the semiconductor memory 83 of the memory module” (Column 3, paragraph 0066, lines 2-5) and explains that “eight read operation indicator LEDs 51 are used to indicate frequency of reading from the semiconductor memory 83” (Column 3, paragraph 0066); further teaching that “the LED decoder 72 lights eight read operation indicator LEDs 51” (Figure 14 and Column 6, paragraph 0111) wherein “the sequencer generates a READL\_WRITH signal and outputs

it to a command decoder 62 and LED decoders 72 and 73” and explains that when the signal is set to low, the system is performing a reading access (Column 4, paragraph 0081)].

15. As per claims 9-10 and 12, Bungo discloses “The device of claims 4 and 11,” [See rejection to claims 4 and 11 above] “wherein when the card controller issues an “erase” command, the indicator indicates that the accessible memory card is performing an erasing operation” wherein “the indicator further comprises at least a third light-emitting diode for indicating that the accessible memory card is performing a erasing operation” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses “the indicator unit 40a is mounted with a plurality of LEDs (indicator elements) 51 and 52 to indicate states of access to the semiconductor memory 83 of the memory module” (Column 3, paragraph 0066, lines 2-5) wherein “the available access types include not only writing or reading from the semiconductor memory, but also deleting data from the semiconductor memory, verifying data, and the like” (Column 1, paragraph 0014) further specifying that “it may be also preferable to provide indicator elements corresponding to the other types such as deletion and verification of data in the semiconductor memory and use the corresponding indicator elements to indicate the frequency of these types of accesses” (Column 9, paragraph 0150)].

16. As per claims 14 and 16, Bungo discloses “The device of claims 1 and 4,” [See rejection to claims 1 and 4 above] “wherein the said interface further comprises a determination device for determining the command issued from the card controller” [Bungo discloses this limitation as “the sequencer generates a READL\_WRITH signal and outputs it to a command decoder 62 and LED decoders 72 and 73” and explains that when the signal is set to low,



the system is performing reading access, and when the signal is set to high, the system is performing a writing access (Column 4, paragraph 0081)].

17. As per claims 15 and 17, Bungo discloses “The device of claims 1 and 4,” [See rejection to claims 1 and 4 above] “wherein the interface further comprises a driver for driving the indicator” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses that “the indicator circuit according to the present invention comprises the circuit included in the indicator section 40 and the driver IC 24” (Column 3, paragraph 0067)].

18. As per claim 18, Bungo discloses “The device of claim 1,” [See rejection to claim 1 above] “wherein the accessible memory card further comprises an external interface for connecting the accessible memory card with a host machine” [With respect to this limitation, Bungo discloses “a memory module connection terminal 82 is formed at the bottom edge of the printed wiring board” (Column 3, paragraph 0062, lines 5-6) wherein “the memory module 80 is an expansion memory card for a desktop personal computer” (Column 3, paragraph 0062, lines 9-10)].

## **VI. RELEVANT ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER**

19. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant’s art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant’s disclosure. See MPEP 707.05(c).

20. The following reference teaches a portable storage medium based on universal serial buss standard and control method therefor wherein LEDs are used to display the operation state of a USB flash drive.

**U.S. PATENT NUMBER**

US 2003/0167376

**VII. CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Conclusion**

**a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

21. The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by M.P.E.P. 707.07(i):

**a(1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION**

22. Per the instant office action, claims 1-18 have received a first action on the merits and are subject of a first action non-final.

**b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES**

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaima Campos whose telephone number is (571) 272-1232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

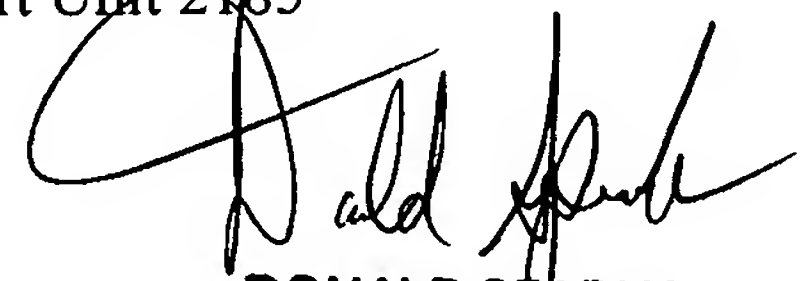
24. If attempts to reach the above noted Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Donald Sparks, can be reached at the following telephone number:  
Area Code (571) 272-4201.

Art Unit: 2185

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 10, 2006

Yaima Campos  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2185

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Sparks", is written over a rectangular stamp area.

**DONALD SPARKS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**